Sausage production sizzles with advanced data protection

Johnsonville keeps SAP HANA ERP humming with more than 90% backup speed improvements and 100% restore success rates

Business needs

Consumers expect their favorite sausage products to be on store shelves, and Johnsonville is ready to serve. When the company’s tape backup system began delivering incomplete backups and imperfect restores, IT moved quickly to replace it with a solution that ensures high-speed, reliable backup and recovery.

Solutions at a glance

• Dell EMC PowerProtect appliances
• Dell EMC DD Boost
• Dell EMC Data Protection Suite

Business results

• Ensures uptime of critical SAP HANA applications
• Reduces backup windows from 12–24 hours to 1 hour
• Facilitates self-service for database administrators to manage their own backups

Speeds restores from 3–4 hours to 30 minutes

Increases backup frequency due to 30:1 data deduplication
Johnsonville, the nation’s number-one sausage brand, takes great pride in delivering high-quality sausage products that make memories at tailgating parties, sporting events, picnics, breakfasts and other gatherings. At the heart of Johnsonville’s operations is an SAP HANA enterprise resource planning (ERP) system that coordinates manufacturing, accounting, distribution and sales across 40 countries worldwide.

When Johnsonville used a tape-based IBM TSM system to protect SAP HANA and other applications, some backups were exceeding 24 hours. Restores often were missing data. Although Johnsonville paid for a managed services provider to deliver TSM backup services, IT was still mired in backup and restore issues.

IT decided to replace IBM TSM with Dell EMC PowerProtect appliances, Data Domain Boost software and Data Protection Suite. Johnsonville uses the Dell solution to protect VMware virtual machines (VMs) running enterprise applications and databases, including SAP HANA ERP, Sybase ASE, Microsoft SQL Server, MongoDB and IBM Domino.

100% confidence in uptime of sausage operations

Since deploying Dell EMC Data Protection, IT now has assurance of reliable, fast backups and restores.

Corey Aponte, server administrator at Johnsonville, states, “Maintaining 100% uptime of SAP HANA gives our business what it needs to make and deliver our fantastic sausage products. We are now 100% confident we can back up and restore any server, database, application or file with Dell EMC Data Protection. When we relied on IBM TSM tape backup, we could back up and restore only 75% of the time.”

Backups now complete in 1 hour compared to 12–24 hours or even longer before—delivering an improvement of more than 90%.

“In a high-pressure manufacturing environment, saving time and delivering application uptime are key assets.”

Corey Aponte
Server Administrator, Johnsonville

Increases restore success rate from 75% to 100%
"We used to spend three to four hours restoring a server and then discover it was missing data," says Aponte. "With Dell EMC Data Protection Suite, restores of servers or databases, no matter how big, take 30 minutes to two hours and they are always successful. That's a huge advantage."

**Dedupe makes frequent, reliable backups possible**

With Dell EMC Data Protection, Johnsonville executes frequent backups with confidence. Notes Aponte, "With 30:1 data deduplication enabled by PowerProtect DD, we can back up more frequently, so our backups are even more up to date."

Johnsonville’s SAP HANA database administrators also have sung the praises of Dell EMC Data Domain Boost. "Our database administrators love Data Domain Boost because it’s so easy to run their own backups and restores using their native Oracle tools and interfaces," Aponte explains. "They get more control without needing to involve IT."

Aponte also appreciates the customer-support experience and the simplified management of Dell EMC Data Protection. "We’ve had a great experience with ‘PowerProtect appliances, DD Boost, Data Protection Suite and Dell’s great customer support," says Aponte. "The Dell EMC solution was a snap to implement, and it’s easy to manage. In a high-pressure manufacturing environment, saving time and delivering application uptime are key assets."